

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present Application are shown below whether or not an amendment has been made.

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. **(Currently amended)** A method of maintaining a state ~~the state~~ of a virtual connection supported by an active connection manager on a standby connection manager comprising:

configuring the standby connection manager to include a physical machine object that stores a physical IP address of a physical machine that is available to the active connection manager and a virtual machine object that stores a virtual IP address of a virtual machine that is implemented on the active connection manager;

receiving a replication packet at the standby connection manager from the active connection manager wherein the replication packet includes a foreign IP address, the virtual IP address and the physical IP address; and

storing a standby connection object in the standby connection manager that includes the foreign IP address, the virtual IP address and the physical IP address from the replication packet.

2. **(Currently amended)** The method ~~A method~~ of maintaining the state of a virtual connection recited ~~as recited~~ in claim 1 further including changing the standby connection manager to an active state and translating a destination ~~the destination~~ IP address of incoming packets that have a packet source address that matches the foreign IP address and a packet destination address that matches the virtual IP address into the physical IP address.

3. (Currently amended) The method ~~A-method~~ of maintaining the state of a virtual connection recited ~~as-recited~~ in claim 1 further including:

updating a physical machine counter in the physical machine object when a replication packet is received that includes the physical IP address.

4. (Currently amended) The method ~~A-method~~ of maintaining the state of a virtual connection recited ~~as-recited~~ in claim 1 further including:

updating a virtual machine counter in the virtual machine object when a replication packet is received that includes the virtual IP address.

5. (Currently amended) The method ~~A-method~~ of maintaining the state of a virtual connection recited ~~as-recited~~ in claim 1 further including:

receiving a replication packet at the standby connection manager from the active connection manager wherein the replication packet includes the foreign IP address, the virtual IP address, and a flag indicating that the replication packet corresponds to a deleted connection; and

deleting the standby connection object that includes the foreign IP address and the virtual IP address.

6. (Currently amended) The method ~~A-method~~ of maintaining the state of a virtual connection recited ~~as-recited~~ in claim 1, wherein the virtual connection comprises a first virtual connection, and wherein the replication packet includes ~~a~~ ~~includes~~ a second foreign IP address, a second virtual IP address and a second physical IP address wherein the second foreign IP address, the second virtual IP address and the second physical IP address correspond to a second virtual connection that is associated with the first virtual connection.

7. (Currently amended) The method ~~A-method~~ of maintaining the state of a virtual connection recited ~~as-recited~~ in claim 6 wherein the second virtual connection is not timed out unless the first virtual connection is timed out.

8. (Currently amended) The method ~~A-method~~ of maintaining the state of a virtual connection recited ~~as-recited~~ in claim 6 wherein the first virtual connection is an FTP control connection and the second virtual connection is an FTP data connection.

9. (Currently amended) The method ~~A-method~~ of maintaining the state of a virtual connection recited ~~as-recited~~ in claim 1 further including changing the standby connection manager to an active state and updating a time stamp in a physical machine object to reflect a current ~~the-current~~ time before timing out the physical machine object.

10. (Currently amended) The method ~~A-method~~ of maintaining the state of a virtual connection recited ~~as-recited~~ in claim 1 further including changing the standby connection manager to an active state and updating a time stamp in a virtual machine object to reflect the current time before timing out the virtual machine object.

11. (Currently amended) The method ~~A-method~~ of maintaining the state of a virtual connection recited ~~as-recited~~ in claim 1 wherein the physical machine wherein new connections are distributed to the physical machine using a load balancing scheme that depends on a number ~~the-number~~ of connections made to the physical machine.

12. (Currently amended) The method ~~A-method~~ of maintaining the state of a virtual connection recited ~~as-recited~~ in claim 1 further including receiving configuration information for configuring the standby connection manager on a configuration connection.

13. (Currently amended) The method ~~A-method~~ of maintaining the state of a virtual connection recited ~~as-recited~~ in claim 12 wherein the configuration connection is a dedicated configuration connection between the active connection manager and the standby connection manager.

14. (Currently amended) The method ~~A-method~~ of maintaining the state of a virtual connection recited ~~as-recited~~ in claim 1 wherein the standby connection replication object also includes a virtual machine port number.

15. (Currently amended) The method ~~A-method~~ of maintaining the state of a virtual connection recited ~~as-recited~~ in claim 1 wherein the standby connection replication object also includes a physical machine port number.

16. (Currently amended) The method ~~A-method~~ of maintaining the state of a virtual connection recited ~~as-recited~~ in claim 1 wherein the standby connection replication object also includes a foreign port number.

17. (Currently amended) The method ~~A-method~~ of maintaining the state of a virtual connection recited ~~as-recited~~ in claim 1 further including checking the size of the replication packet.

18. **(Original)** A standby connection manager comprising:

a physical machine object that stores a physical IP address of a physical machine that is available to an active connection manager and a virtual machine object that stores a virtual IP address of a virtual machine that is implemented on the active connection manager;

means for receiving a replication packet from the active connection manager wherein the replication packet includes a foreign IP address, the virtual IP address and the physical IP address; and

a standby connection object that includes the foreign IP address, the virtual IP address and the physical IP address from the replication packet on the standby connection manager.

19. **(Cancelled)**

20. **(Cancelled)**